



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 140A
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, April 14, 2014

10:00 AM

Present: Chair Geneva Berger, Vice Chair Steven M. Olivas Esq.,
Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Candace Cooper,
Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Sydney Kamlager,
Commissioner Helen Kleinberg and Commissioner Adrienne
Konigar-Macklin

Excused: Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen,
Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang, Commissioner Becky A. Shevlin,
Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW and Commissioner
Martha Trevino-Powell

Call to Order. (14-1710)

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introductions of April 14, 2014 meeting attendees. (14-1711)

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the April 14, 2014 Meeting Agenda. (14-1712)

**On motion of Vice Chair Olivas, seconded by Commissioner Kamlager
(Commissioners Franzen, Kang, Shevlin, Sorkin, Trevino-Powell and Vice
Chair Friedman being absent), this item was approved.**

3. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of March 17, 2014. (14-1713)

**On motion of Commissioner Cooper, seconded by Commissioner Kamlager
(Commissioners Franzen, Kang, Shevlin, Sorkin, Trevino-Powell and Vice
Chair Friedman being absent), this item was approved.**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

4. Chair's report for April 14, 2014 by Genevra Berger, Chair. (14-1714)

Chair Berger reported the following:

- **The next Commission meeting will be held on April 28, 2014.**
- **Commissioners were emailed an update on the actions taken at the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection's meeting held on April 10, 2014. Commissioners wishing to discuss this further should contact Chair Berger.**

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Franzen, Kang, Shevlin, Sorkin, Trevino-Powell and Vice Chair Friedman being absent), this item was received and filed.

Agenda Item No. 5 was taken after Agenda Item No. 6.

5. DCFS Director's report for April 14, 2014 by Philip Browning, Director, DCFS. (14-1715)

Fesia Davenport, DCFS, Chief Deputy Director reported the following on behalf of Director Browning:

- **Since the initial State audit regarding overstay at the Emergency Response Command Post (ERCP), the State has recognized progress made and challenges the county faces in this area.**
- **The hiring plan is to hire 450 Children's Social Workers (CSW) by October 2014. To date, 223 CSW's have been hired and placed under the Continued Services Unit.**
- **The staff attrition rate is at approximately 3%. A report is being created showing the number of CSW's in the department and where they are placed. A staffing priority is to increase the CSW's in the Continued Services Unit.**
- **Work is being done with the Schools of Social Work to develop an evaluation of the new CSW training. Additionally, a focus group is being developed for additional feedback on the new training.**

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Franzen, Kang, Shevlin, Sorkin, Trevino-Powell and Vice Chair Friedman, being absent), this item was received and filed.

III. PRESENTATION

6. Presentation by Department of Children and Families (DCFS) on Foster Care Recruitment:

- Karen Richardson, Division Chief, Out-of-Home Care Management
- Diane Wagner, Division Chief, Adoptions and Permanency Resources Division
- Sari Grant, CSA III, Adoption Services (14-1716)

Ms. Grant distributed a PowerPoint presentation and reported on the following:

Intake of Families

- Families who are interested in becoming a foster family are able to call and speak to a representative from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Calls can be rolled over to four people to insure rapid response. There is Spanish speaking staff to respond to Spanish language calls.
- For special events with a higher volume of calls, additional staff is available to assist.
- At the time an orientation for the family is scheduled, orientation material is sent accompanied by an evaluation form with questions relating to the service received at the intake point.

Orientations and Follow-up

- Approximately eight (8) orientations are scheduled a month. Orientations are typically offered in English and Spanish. Special orientations are offered in Korean as part of the current recruitment effort targeting the Korean community.
- Families are reminded a few days prior to the scheduled orientation and are followed up with after.

Pre-Approval Retention

- As part of the foster care application process, Ambassadors who are Foster Parents are available to support the potential foster families through the application process. Ambassadors receive a stipend for every family that attends a Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting (PS-MAPP) session and are approved as a foster family.

- Clinics are held to make the process easier for the applicants.
- Work is being done with the National Resource Center for Diligent Recruitment (NRC) to make orientations user friendly. Additionally, a Foster Care and Adoption Orientation Evaluation were recreated to evaluate the assistance of staff and information provided to potential foster families going through the application process.
- A business process reengineering with NRC was conducted to evaluate and improve how people are registered for PS-MAPP.

Foster Home Recruitment Efforts

The Placement and Recruitment Units (PRU) are responsible for all foster parent recruitment activities. This includes:

- General Recruitment which includes, media campaigns, presentations and faith-based outreach
- Targeted Recruitment including, children with medical needs, siblings, infants and teens.
- Trained staff participates in community outreach at approximately 50 community events annually and approximately 25 faith-based events including "Open Your Hear Sundays", an event to recruit new resource parents. Many of these efforts are promoted with radio and print campaigns.
- Additional outreach underway in the faith-based communities includes the Interfaith Foster Care Summit that will take place in May. Leaders from various faith-based communities attend.
- Specialized media campaigns are done with Spanish language stations as well. Social media is being used to increase awareness and provide information.
- Additional recruitment events and efforts are done in partnership with several Foster Family Agencies (FFA).
- There are ten FFA's currently providing therapeutic foster care. DCFS is assisting with an outreach event sponsored by these ten FFA's for recruitment.

Intake Calls and Orientation Attendance

- The intake of calls for those interested in becoming a foster family has remained at similar levels since 2010 however, the Orientation attendance has increased.

Orientation Attendance by Source

- Families attending Orientation are asked the how they learned of the Orientation. Responses indicate that the largest sources of referrals come from the internet and family/friends.

Orientation Attendance by Ethnicity

- The African American community is the largest population attending Orientation.

PS-MAPP Attendance

- PS-MAPP attendance has increased over the years. The highest attendance occurred in 2013 with 1,481 families having attended.

Consolidated Home Study Approvals

- The numbers of Home Study approvals have increased particularly in foster care since 2004.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, the presenters responded with the following:

- In regards to the amount of time applicants are on the waitlist to attend PS-MAPP, Ms. Wagner explained that a lapse in service occurred due to a contract issue in January and February of 2014. Classes are scheduled for the remainder of the year. There are approximately 60 classes held countywide. The wait time is dependent on whether a family is only interested in attending a class in a specific area.
- Ms. Wagner explained that the number of home approvals is lower than the national average, which is approximately 10 %. For this reason, as part of a recruitment effort, the Ambassador Program was implemented to increase the number of approved foster homes.

Ms. Richardson explained that due to unavailable data a comparison of recruitment efforts between DCFS and the FFA's is not available. However, FFA's have expressed similar recruitment challenges.

Ms. Wagner explained that a monthly meeting is held with the FFA's and DCFS staff to share strategies and plan events to further recruitment efforts. She further informed that when a training/orientation is not available, it has not been a practice to refer interested foster families to FFA's; however, this will be a practice implemented.

- **Fesia Davenport, DCFS, Chief Deputy Director, explained that data specific to the number of beds available is not in a format that can be evaluated detailing the number of beds for specific age groups.**

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Franzen, Kang, Shevlin, Sorkin, Trevino-Powell, Vice Chair Friedman, being absent), this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

7. **Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (14-1717)**

There were none.

Announcements

8. **Announcements for the meeting of April 14, 2014. (14-1718)**

There were none.

Public Comment

9. **Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (14-1719)**

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

10. **Adjournment of the meeting of April 14, 2014. (14-1720)**

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.